



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

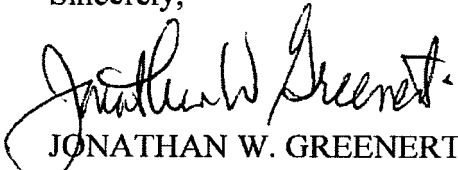
Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2012 regarding a visit to Naval Submarine Base New London. As you know, Groton remains an essential port and training base for our Submarine Force.

Groton continues to serve as a key component of the Navy's strategic dispersal of undersea warfare assets. Strategic dispersal is important to ensuring submarines—along with their crews, supporting maintenance and training-critical infrastructure, and surrounding community public/private skilled labor force—are located in more than one facility or region.

I am grateful for your commitment to the Navy and support of our Sailors and look forward to meeting with you and Rear Admiral Breckenridge to discuss the base's continued strategic importance. My staff is working to identify dates and will coordinate with your staff to schedule a time for our meeting.

As always, if I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,


JONATHAN W. GREENERT
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Blumenthal - CNO 092808b.....